

WRESTLING FORUM

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ISSUE 4

WRESTLING'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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STAFF

JON GALLAGHER-EDITOR

SEAN GRANDE

ED GAREA

SEAN HENDRICK

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A NEW DIRECTION

Welcome back to yet another edition of *Wrestling Forum*, wrestling's best kept secret. Several things are happening in the world of wrestling, including two new world champions to report, and several things are happening with the bulletin.

Let's take care of the business end of this first: This is *Wrestling Forum* and we publish on the 15th and 30th of each month. At least, those are the days that we take the thing to the printer. What happens from there is beyond our control. We try to mail the next day. Rates are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for upto six months at any one time. All renewals, results, letters, etc. should be sent to us at ***Wrestling Forum*, Box 65, Knoxville, IL 61448.**

Now lets see if I can say this next without sounding like Oral Roberts or somebody...

Several years ago I dropped out of college to pursue a dream. I had the chance to go on the road as a professional magician. I figured I could always go back to school. But I never did.

Situations have changed over the years and I'm sitting here, wondering if a 34 year old father of two could go back to school and finish his degree. I would have two years of college to go.

Academically, no problem. Time wise; maybe a problem. Financially, definitely a problem.

I checked into things and I am eligible for several scholarships and the rest of the cost would be picked up in student loans. The problem would be surviving for two years on little or no income.

I used the computer to figure things out. We need to more than double our list of subscribers in order to accomplish everything. If we do that, we could survive for a couple of years while I finish my education. If not, then plain and simple: I'd need to find something to do with my free time to make money to survive those two years. This would mean we would fold the *Forum* since I just wouldn't have time to do it.

You can help. If you are passing the *Forum* on to a friend after you're done reading it, now's the time for that friend to have his own subscription. If you know of someone interested in wrestling, now's the time to introduce them to *Forum*. In the *Miscellaneous Stuff* section, we'll be announcing an incentive program for you to get folks to sign up.

Thanks. What ever decision is made will be in everyone's best interests.

the Third Fall

Many will remember the angle as one of the best ever done by Verne Gagne. But little did we realize that an angle done almost twenty years ago would introduce us to one of today's superstars.

Greg Gagne, son of promoter Verne Gagne was working in a TV match. Greg was young then, just out of college and had not gotten a major push. He was still some time away from forming the High Flyers with Jim Brunzell. He was still quite a ways away from becoming the obnoxious, hundred and twelve pound egomaniac we know today.

He was in the process of getting the holy snot beat out of him on TV.

Verne saw the possibilities here. He needed a new babyface that he could push. He needed to get the guy over as quick as possible. The best way to do that would be to take one of the most hated heels in the area and turn him into a babyface. That encompassed the rule about "the more hated a heel, the more loved he is as a babyface" and vice-versa.

So here's his own son to be the sacrificial lamb. He's getting the snot beat out of him and out comes one of the most hated heels in AWA history to make the save.

The announcers are stunned. They can't believe that one of Verne Gagne's most hated enemies is coming out to make the save.

As the heel picks up a limp Greg Gagne in his arms, he makes his way toward the announcer. With tears in his eyes, he explains that he has a son too. Someday, he would like his son to be a wrestler, but he would hate to see something like this happen to him. He said he couldn't just sit there and watch it happen to someone else's son. He added something to the effect that he hoped that someone would come to his son's rescue should it ever happen to him.

The silence in the studio was complete. The turn was a huge success.

You may not remember the angle. You may be too young to recognize the name of the wrestler, who in the twilight of his career, turned babyface. But you've definitely heard of his son. The one that he hoped would someday become a wrestler.

You've just read how Larry "the Axe" Hennig redeemed himself for years and years of beating up babyfaces.

And you've just heard the first reference made to his son, Curt "Mr. Perfect" Hennig.

And now you know the outcome of the third fall.

□ □ □

My thanks to Ed Hammond of WIRL for reminding me of this angle so the feature could be written.

I•N•D•E•P•E•N•D•E•N•T•L•Y S•P•E•A•K•I•N•G

Ed Zohn and his UIW in Baltimore attempted to tape a show for previewing for TV stations in the area, but most of the camera crew were students. The result was a product that was severely lacking in quality and turned out too dark for broadcast. Reportedly, they will try again.

Ever wonder what independent wrestlers do to make ends meet? A bunch of them are currently selling some sort of water filter in a multi-level marketing plan (like Amway). Among those involved are Austin Idol, Boris Zhukov, Adrian Street, and Dale "Marcial Bovee" Pierce. Supposedly Idol is making more in a month than he did wrestling during 1990. I believe the company is called NSA.

Herb Abrams is still telling people that he'll be doing a pay per view in June. The two matches that have been leaked this way are Bob Backlund vs Ivan Koloff and Bruno Sammartino vs Buddy Rogers. You read that right. I think someone should send Mr. Abrams a calendar with 1991 in **real bold print!**

Chicago's Windy City Wrestling is gearing up to run some fair shows over the summer. Last year they were well received at the Henry County Fair just north of us here in Knox County. Fair officials said they would consider having them back.

Another wrestling group has been contacting fair boards across the Midwest as well, trying to sell a wrestling show. I got a call from our own fair board and I had never heard of any of the wrestlers they proposed using. I don't know what group it is, but they claim to be the "minor league team for the WWF." I know the ICW had been saying something like that, but it wasn't them; I would have recognized something out of their group. I called the fair back to find out more info, but they had already deep sixed the photo copied flyer they received.

Denny Brown turned babyface down in the SWA in Florida. Jeff James, the junior heavyweight champ was Brown's partner until James started bragging that no one was good enough to wrestle him. Brown, who is recognized by the promotion as the world junior champ came out and challenged his partner, turning babyface in the process.

PENCIL POINTS

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MCMAHON'S ANGLE

I greatly enjoyed Ed Garea's feature article in the 2/28 issue. It was very literate and well thought out. The reference regarding the whining and moralizing "Nattering Nabobs of Wrestling Sheets" initially ruffled my feathers as I have been quite vocal in my protests against McMahon's Iraqi angle. But if you by chance read my series in *Wrestling perspective* over the last few months, you must concur that I have been one of the few writers who has been consistent in addressing all of the issues you mentioned. I'm glad that we agree completely on this overall situation since I respect your ability as a writer.

However, I'm still not sure what you meant by "that crowd" or being "politically correct" as I know whose side I was on regarding the Gulf War. It seems to me that the perpetually self-aggrandizing "politically correct" crowd is the ultra liberal left wing radicals, who in this case were outnumbered 10 to 1 and forced into silent submission because the mass majority of Americans finally made more noise than they did. I don't feel that everybody who found this angle to be improper was in actuality self righteous, self serving, jingoistic or reactionary. Maybe they just made the distinction between who they perceived as the "good guy" and the "bad guy", and the way a real life and death situation was exploited by a greedy and shameless promoter. I reiterate that I understand the point you were attempting to make, but on this particular issue, I feel that McMahon's true intentions were indeed more "loathsome" than the selective criticism he generated. Look at it this way - maybe this signals a change in the way people will deal with any manner of tasteless angles or sociopolitical issues in the future. Maybe they will become less selective in what they find to be intolerable behavior. I hope so. I personally make no distinction between one mode of repulsiveness and another and will continue to do so. The balance of the article was right on target. I couldn't have said it better myself.

The greatest inconsistency I find lately is the vile and putrid bilge disguised as humor that McMahon is attempting to pawn off on his pre-adolescent TV audience on Prime Time Wrestling. He obviously is concerned that the demographics of his viewership is changing and he is unsuccessfully trying to cover all the bases. McMahon is an alley cat on his 9th life.

•VIC STANLEY•
•LAFAYETTE IN•

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TASTES GREAT...LESS FILLING

With recent events in the world of professional wrestling, the word "taste" is being thrown around quite frequently. Frankly, I know of no organization or person who has set the reference standard for taste, by which, all others are judged.

The point is that this is professional wrestling, and is taste, good or bad, really a factor? I think not. It has been said many times, if you do not care for what you see on the television or hear on the radio, either turn it off or change the channel. Taste is the perception of each individual. One person may think that the embalming segment on Prime Time was in bad taste. I, who was thoroughly entertained by this skit, have placed no judgments on it in terms of taste. If the Slaughter-Iraqi angle backfires on McMahon, then we can all have a laugh at Vince's expense, but history has proven that Vince usually laughs last, and laughs best. If "old" Ed Garea was named by all of the promotions to be the Minister of Taste, and his judgment was to be absolute, then that would be OK, and we would have a reference standard.

I have never seen the tape of Eric Embry "blowing chunks", but if I did not like it, I could state so, but this would not give me the power to make judgments for other people. Some readers think Stan Hansen's tight work is okay, for the very reasons I present here. I, personally, prefer the Art of Perceived Tightness. This is just an individual's opinion.

By the way, what is all the hubbub about McNeely's letter? I think Randy is a great heel and all he did was to Kay Fabe a bunch of smart fans.

•PAT RAFFERTY•

•BALTIMORE, MD•

PRE WRESTLEMANIA

I'm not one to brag, but last year I predicted that WMVII would not be held at the LA Coliseum. But never in my wildest dreams did I think that it would be moved to the LA Sports Arena. The place is a certified dump. The LA Clippers deserve to play there.

I really have to wonder what McMahon was thinking when he signed on the dotted line. What angle did he have in mind? It had to have been better than what he has planned now. The factors listed in V6I2 are all wrong (in my opinion) as to why the Slaughter angle didn't sell out the Coliseum. Simply put, LA is not a "wrestling town." In fact, calling LA a town is like including Las Vegas in the Bible Belt. Very few major events can sell out the Coliseum. The LA Raiders only sold out one game, and that was in the playoffs, USC plays football at the Coliseum and the only games they sell out are against UCLA and Notre Dame. The only UCLA football sell out at the Rose Bowl is against USC.

Very few events excite the people of Southern California AND sel out the Coliseum. The 1984 Olympics easily sold out the Coliseum. The Pope's Mass filled the Coliseum to the brim. I really don't think there are enough wrestling fans in the entire state who are willing to shell out the big bucks to

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fill the Coliseum. But I'm glad that WM will be held in LA for probably the last time. It should stay in the East or Midwest or Toronto. People there give a damn. We are too laid back to care.

I've watched the new Prime Time on USA and I think it's great. Vince and Bobby really work well together. It's funny, fast paced, and better than the old format. You can tell that McMahon pumps iron by the outfits he wears. And Heenan is being punished for being caught with pot. He's been humiliated on every show in front of millions of viewers. Isn't that punishment enough? Or is Heenan laughing all the way to the bank like the rest of them?

•FEDERICO GARCIA•
•HAWTHORNE, CA•

POST WRESTLEMANIA

I just got back from WMVII live and watching it on video. I'm really confused. Leaving the arena, I kept telling myself that I had to quit going to the kid oriented WWF cards. I thought it was weak and other than Savage vs Warrior, not worth the time or money. Maybe it was because I was sitting in the cheap \$50 seats (I also arrived late). But after watching the video, I think it was great. I liked it all (on TV) and I feel the Savage match and turn to be classic. People were crying in the balcony next to me. I've never seen that before. Maybe I'm a sucker for love but it seemed to be an angle with some truth to it.

I though camera movement and direction added a lot to the show. All the comedy worked. I never dreamed the instant replay skit would work but it did. Tenryu's comedy was better than his wrestling (he's got a future in the WWF). Monsoon and Heenan did a good job. Especially with the Savage match and turn.

But as I said, I was very surprised that I liked it on TV because I didn't thing that much of it live. Basically, I'm sick of the WWF.

•STEVE YOHE•
•ALHAMBRA CA•

World Championship Wrestling

We started off this issue thinking we had a new NWA/WCW champion. Ric Flair, is still the champion, at least here in the United States, amidst a great controversy. On March 31, Flair wrestled Tatsumi Fujinami in the main even in the Tokyo Egg Dome. There was a ref bump, followed by Fujinami "accidentally" flipping Flair over the top ropes. The two continued to wrestle with Fujinami getting the upper hand. As Fujinami pinned Flair, the referee was still out, but Fujinami counted himself. The ref came to, crawled over to the action and counted three. Fujinami was awarded the belt and he left the arena with it.

Two days later, it was announced in Japan that Fujinami had been disqualified by officials from World Championship Wrestling for throwing Flair over the top rope. In Japan, this is not illegal. WCW insists that the match was wrestled under WCW rules while New Japan claims it was under Japanese rules. What we have, then is two organizations, each laying claim to the World title.

I'll claim ignorance from this point on out. I've had a couple of people tell me this is a work (which I'm inclined to believe) and a couple others tell me it definitely isn't. We'll give you both sides and let you decide.

WORKED VERSION: Two Pay Per Views that are upcoming are the main points of this argument. April 7 is the date when they will show this match and the others from the Egg Dome on PPV. Then, on May 19, they will have another PPV, this one from Tampa-St. Pete where Flair and Fujinami will meet to determine the "real" champion. The reason that the finish was done the way it was with the delayed DQ is because of the way fans in Japan would have reacted. If Fujinami would have been DQ'd at the show, a full scale riot would have broken out. Fans in Japan are well informed and for the most part know that wrestling is a work. However, they insist upon clean finishes. There were more than 65,000 fans in attendance at the Egg Dome and they have been known to riot, literally tearing up the building, for lesser things. The theory behind the "worked finish" is that it will be used to sell more tickets for the PPV live and more subscriptions for both the taped PPV and the live one on May 19.

NON WORKED VERSION: I'm also being told that there was a lot of friction and disagreement, as there always is when a title is going to change hands. I was told that Fujinami refused to lose in front of the "home crowd" and that he was reluctant to drop the strap back to Flair after he had won it. According to this version, Fujinami was to win it cleanly, or at least win it with the ref bump finish and then lose it back at a later date. He supposedly balked at the idea which necessitated this version. If things go as planned, then Fujinami will lose the title cleanly to Flair on the 5/19 show, but will remain strong. If this version is correct, then there has to be some severely

stained relationships between World Championship Wrestling and New Japan.

The only WCW person I've talked to about this wasn't really for sure what happened. All they could tell me was that Dusty, who the Japanese fans know is the booker, is not the most popular guy on the Islands right now. Dusty was famous for his screw job finishes and false finishes here in the states when he booked before for the NWA. He cost the promotion a lot of viewers on account of that. In Japan, they just might not give him the chance. And that certainly isn't the way to treat a bunch of fans who just shelled out (collectively) a little more than three million dollars to see your show.

Last issue we reported that Dusty Rhodes might be taking the title from Flair during the Great American Bash tour. The way it came out in print, it was a carved in stone thing. Not true. This is simply what *Dusty* wants to happen. Whether Jim Herd will allow it or not is another thing.

Sid Vicious' ego is out of control. He's making \$250,000 a year on his current contract and now he's *demanding* a raise. He wants an additional \$100,000 per year added immediately. Insiders tell me that his strategy is to either get WCW to come up with more dough right now, or he'll be able to jump to the WWF. Of course he has a contract with WCW that would prevent him from working for Titan for about a year, but apparently, he's willing to sit out that period of time in hopes of an offer from Titan. Should that offer not come, then Sid would basically be up the creek without a paddle. you may recall that Sid was talked about and possibly recruited by Titan a year or so ago while he recuperated from a punctured lung.

They've begun doing something that drives me absolutely insane. They're using canned soundtracks with the matches shown on WTBS. That wouldn't be so bad except that it's so obvious. We hear these thunderous cheers and boos, but we see people half asleep amidst empty seats. That plus the fact that the cheers and boos are not appropriate when played back. The only thing they're doing is turning up the volume of the cheering machine when something good happens on screen, and turning it back down when there's, for example, a rest hold. I realize how important it is for it to look and sound good, especially to potential advertisers and affiliates, but if an amateur like me can pick out fake sound, then don't you think the professional broadcasters can do the same thing? It makes them look (and sound) very bush league.

CAULIFLOWER ALLEY CLUB BANQUET

by Steve Yohe

Editor's note: Steve sent this along as a letter, but it was a bit too long for the letters page, so instead it becomes a mini-feature. Thanks to Steve for the time he took to report on the banquet.

Saturday night I was given the privilege to attend the Cauliflower Alley Club Banquet. It was a wrestling fan's dream. Get this: In one night I met Dick "the Destroyer" Beyer, Lou Thesz, Terry Funk, Ray Stern, Pepper Gomez, the Fabulous Moolah, Sam Munchnick, John Tolos, Toru Tanaka, Karl Von Hess, Red Bastien, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Don Mulkian, Kenji Shibuya, Penny Banner, Billy Robinson, Susan Sexton, Magnificent Mimi (who was truly magnificent), and many more. I also got to meet a lot of people who I like to think are friends, like Mike Tenay, Dave Meltzer, Kurt Brown, Glenn Bray, Jeff Walton and many more I can't remember or are afraid to list because I 'll misspell their name. I'm just a big goof, but every one of these people were more than nice to me.

I had met very few people in the business up until that night and I still can't believe it happened (I talked with Lou Thesz...the Lou Thesz!) I'll forget about Wrestlemania in a week; This I'll remember the rest of my life!



Andy Dragos also attended the Cauliflower Alley Club Banquet and sent along a program from the banquet.

This is a not for profit corporation that meets monthly in Hollywood. Once a year they hold this banquet to honor members of the wrestling profession. From the program:

"While not of a hall of fame stature, the type of awards and presentations as offered by Cauliflower Alley Club reflect the feelings of respect and admiration of the club towards honorees. As with all the club activities, a family type of pride in its members and fiends for their accomplishments, participation and support is the prime reason of celebration. With a common bond of a unique type of profession, the membership is proud to salute the honorees. Chosen by their peers for professional and personal accomplishments, the Board of Directors and membership welcomes the 1991 Honorees to Cauliflower Alley Club's Reunion and 'Ring of Friendship'."

This year's honorees included Lou Thesz, Toru Tanaka, Terry Funk, Ray Stern, Gene LaBell, George Temple, Rudy Vasquez, Cora Combs, Ida Martinez, Rita Matrtinez, Sam Munchnick and Mary Valerie Boesch.

PHANTOM OF THE RING

By Ed Garea

THE CRUELEST MONTH - If there is one thing Hulk Hogan proved with his victory over the turncoat Sgt. Slaughter, it is that America cannot be pushed around by foreign agents! Hogan's victory was not only for himself, but for all his little Hulksters and all Americans everywhere. Let this be a message to Saddam Hussein that the WWF championship cannot be bought at any price, not can the sacred idols of America be easily destroyed!

Randy Savage only showed the world how truly despicable he is by his ambush of the Ultimate Warrior at the Royal Rumble. And, of course, what made it so terrible was the interference of Sensational Sherri as a distraction. At the very least, Jack Tunney should bar her from ringside or have her managing license taken away.

Speaking of those whose license should be taken away, Bobby "the Brain" Heenan, did not learn his lesson about making fun of Bossman's Mom. On a recent "Prime Time", though, Bossman got even when he handcuffed the Brainless One and left him to the mercy of his mother, who had quite a few things to say to this coward. Good for you, Mother Bossman!

The best news in the NWA so far is the return of "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes. His firm guiding hand is needed to get the NWA back on track. By the way, young Dustin Rhodes has to be one of the most exciting wrestlers to hit the circuit in a long time and has "champion" written all over him. They don't call him "the Natural" for nothing!

Ric Flair proved his mettle when he regained the NWA title from Sting. It takes a real champion to defeat someone of Sting's caliber.

Matches I'd like to see: Sid Vicious vs Ultimate Warrior; El Gigante vs Andre the Giant; Nicolai Volkoff vs Nikita Koloff; Dusty Rhodes vs Owen Hart.

The Undertaker is fortunate to obtain a manager the caliber of Paul Bearer, especially after the sudden, but well deserved demise of Brother Love at the hands of Ultimate Warrior.

There is one thing I would like to state for the record. Many people ask me whether I prefer the WWF or NWA. My answer is that while I respect the NWA, there is no wrestling that can compare with the excitement of the WWF. The greatest wrestlers in the world are working for the WWF, and if Ric Flair was smart, he'd ditch the NWA belt and try to capture the real championship from the Hulkster. But that is no easy task, for to be champion of the WWF, one has to be a really great wrestler. This is why I've never understood criticism of the Ultimate Warrior. I mean, if he wasn't any good, then how did he beat Hulk Hogan? If he wasn't very good, he never would have been champion. So let's end this pointless criticism of the Warrior and get on to better topics.

PHANTOM'S TOP TEN WRESTLERS IN THE WORLD TODAY: 1- Hulk Hogan; 2-Ultimate Warrior; 3- Sid Vicious; 4-Sgt. Slaughter; 5- Andre the Giant; 6- Earthquake; 7- Dusty Rhodes; 8- Virgil; 9- Verne Gagne; 10- Lou Thesz

EDITOR'S NOTE: *At this point, I couldn't continue typing this garbage! I was wondering if perhaps Ed had had a high fever recently, or maybe he was vacationing at a mental health facility. I even considered that he might have sent us the column for Wrestling Eye and vice-versa. Maybe the nursing home*

was giving him double doses of medication. I called him. In between chortles and guffaws, he said something about wishing all our readers a "Happy April Fools Day."

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED... Once upon a time there was a wrestling promoter named Vince. He was an extremely lucky guy. He had a wrestling federation, and a champion who was so popular, you wouldn't have believed it had you not seen it at Madison Square garden with your own eyes. However, as we all know, popularity, even Beatlemania, runs in cycles, and it looked as if little Vince's luck would run out. But wait, it happened that cable television was in its infancy and desperate for anything that could be televised. And so, the big men from the cable came to little Vinnie and asked if they could televise his trash. Naturally, Vinnie said yes and the men from cable began showing highlight shows. When Vinnie saw the numbers on the matches and added the face that wrestling was getting a good image and the wrestlers were getting the credit of this, he began to act. he called the good people at the cable station and told them that he had a show for them. It was called "Tuesday Night Titans" because it was held on Tuesday. "But what kind of show is it?" the good men asked. "A Johnny Carson type show," answered Vinnie. "Only wrestlers are interviewed and highlight matches are shown." "All right," said the good men, "You've convinced us."

Little did the good men know at the time that Vince was taking them for one hell of a ride. The show, far from being what Vince promised, was in reality, the apex of bad taste. There was enough material in one show for at least five abnormal psychology conventions. But surprise! The show was a ratings hit with an audience who couldn't quite believe that anything this bad could be watchable. And they watched, almost transfixed by the sludge being televised in front of them. However, as with any audience who watches unspeakable trash from week to week, this audience wised up and began to turn Vince's show off in droves. This made the good men at the cable station very unhappy, but Vince was not embarrassed in the least. Anyone who could produce such trash as this does not embarrass easily. But the good men at the cable station were firm in their belief that the show should go off the air. After all, there was another show that alternated with this called "Prime Time Wrestling" that was much better (and cleaner). And so this show, hosted by the jovial Gorilla Monsoon and the golden-throated Jesse Ventura (who turned into Bobby Heenan) took over the slot on a regular basis.

At any rate, time flew by and Vince's wrestling began to suffer in both attendance and ratings. Vince blamed everyone but himself, but didn't realize that fans were becoming sick of his style of promoting. To remedy this turn of luck, Vince asked the good men at the cable station to restore Tuesday Night Titans to the cable schedule. The good men smiled at Vince and told him to get lost.

But Vince was undaunted. He truly believed in his cause (or had little knowledge of reality) and bided his time waiting for his chance. And Lo and Behold, wouldn't you know it! Vince got his chance after all.

As in the insurance commercial, life is not a fairy tale. The greatest myth in wrestling is that Vince McMahon is an astute businessman.

Yeah, right.

What people don't seem to realize is that Vince is simply a somewhat normal businessman in a loony-tunes business. Any decent businessman could make the same decisions; all one needs do is look at wrestling like any other business. I remember talking with wrestling fans back in the early 70's and hearing the same things: how

wrestling could be better marketed, that souvenirs would really sell, etc. So, it is not so much a tribute to McMahon that he came up with these marketing ploys as it is indicative of the mentality of other promoters.

Yet, for all his success, people do not seem to realize that it is the drive of the market, and not any special business talents of Vince that has made the WWF the success it has been to date. Also, having New York as the center of you base of operations doesn't hurt either. This allowed Vince to be more cosmopolitan in his marketing approach, in stark contrast to the Crockett based NWA, who took a heavily flavored Southern approach.

What people don't seem to realize is that Vinnie seems to have the luck of the Irish; at least until now. We ignore his many failures while lauding the slightest of his successes. This is simply because the slightest of his successes seem light years beyond when compared to his competitors.

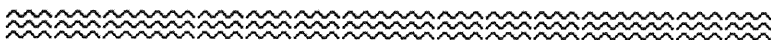
Until now, wrestling has truly been the fatted goose (a little slimmer over the past couple of years, but still worthy of a great feast) of the banquet, and thus, Vinnie's bad business moves will backfire in splendid fashion. Witness the Ultimate Warrior as champ fiasco. Or the Sgt. Slaughter fiasco. Or perhaps his latest fiasco: taking a ratings-respectable show like "Prime Time" and attempting to resurrect "Tuesday Night Titans" over its carcass. In conducting my latest unscientific poll among viewers, I find fans turned off over the latest switch almost 3-1.

This is only a harbinger of what is yet to come. Watch as the market grows slimmer. Watch the real McMahon come to the forefront. Keep your eye on that rating.



Perhaps I am alone in saying this, but I am going to miss Randy McNeely's letters to the *Forum*. While I haven't always agreed with his viewpoints (it would be an impossibility to agree completely), I've always enjoyed his letters. He poked fun at our foibles and oft times pointed out what sorely needed to be pointed out. He never failed to amuse me.

But Randy, if you think you're going to get your wrestling news from *the National*, you're out of your bird. And, in all probability, you won't be getting it long. Given the lack of advertising and the recent 50% increase in the newsstand price, I give *the National* another year. Just look at it this way, Randy: *The National* costs 75¢ per week (I assume you're buying it for the wrestling column on Tuesdays only). This is the same as the *Forum* per week, and with the *Forum*, you're getting 14 pages or more of wrestling. From the viewpoint of economics alone, you're much better off with the *Forum*.



with help from **Bill Burnett**

Highlights of the Lawler win over Funk in the Mid South were shown on the 3/16 TV show and to say it was a tainted victory would be putting it mildly. It was the typical Funk match where he used tables, chairs rails, etc. to beat on Lawler. Special ref for the bout, Jackie Fargo, stopped Funk from using a piledriver to put Lawler away (piledrivers are "illegal" in the USWA). A few minutes later, he turned his back when Lawler hit Funk with a piledriver and the proceeded to pound out the fasted three count in Memphis history. After the match, Eric Embry and Tom Pritchard jumped in the ring to beat on Lawler and Fargo.

After the clips of the match, Lawler was out with the belt for an interview. Embry and Pritchard again jump him and Eddie Gilbert comes out to make the save. They all fall into the ring and a referee jumps in as well, so it looks like we may have an impromptu match. Before much can get going, however, the Texas Hangmen run in and make it four on two until Jeff Jarrett comes in to make the final save, suing a stepladder (don't ask me - I guess it was the only thing he could find backstage...I think they keep one there for Bill Dundee to do his interviews on).

Funk was scheduled for the next Monday night in Memphis to work in a tag match, but for some reason, never made it. They did show an interview with Funk promoting the match which turned out to be kinda interesting. He said that he, Embry, Pritchard and Tojo Yamamoto would be taking on Lawler, Gilbert, Jeff Jarrett and Jackie Fargo in a cage at the Mid South Coliseum that coming Monday night. Between the interview and the airing, however, Memphis State pulled an upset in the NIT tournament and that necessitated a game being played at the Coliseum on that Monday. The card was then switched to the Pitkin Building which will be their new Monday night home. No mention was made other than Funk's slip, about the match being in a cage.

Lawler was supposed to "take some time off" following the win over Funk, but there's been no sign of that yet. He's been listed on the out of town cards and has appeared on every Monday card since the win. Last weekend on TV, he did an interview where he requested a match with Eric Embry for the Texas title and he said after that match, he would take some time off. He also said that he wanted to go out in "a blaze of glory" which to those of you not familiar with Memphis wrestling means Embry is going to get a fireball thrown in his direction.

Tom Pritchard is the new Southern Heavyweight champion having defeated Jeff Jarrett for the title in Dallas. That gives the Texans a good share of the belts in the area.

The Texas Hangmen, Killer and Psycho (who last worked in Windy City),

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have won the tag team belts in the area as well. WE're not sure they really won them in a match or if this was just an office change since we can't even remember who had the belts previously. Dave Brown and Michael St. John are comparing the Hangmen favorably with the Interns and other legendary Memphis tag teams. Ken Ramey must be spinning in his grave.

The 3/25 Memphis card featured another near classic Memphis brawl with Embry and Pritchard vs Lawler and Steve Keirn. Keirn had appeared on the previous Saturday's show to make a save for Eddie Gilbert. Keirn said he didn't like Lawler, but at least he could trust him. No turn took place and the tag match was stopped after the ref lost control. They were using anything that wasn't nailed down including one ringsider's crutches.

The April Fool's show at the Pitkin Building (they're really pushing their new home, reminding people 73 times per show that there is free parking and no service charge for tickets) has an Anything Goes match with the same four. In addition to that, Jeff Jarrett takes on Tom Pritchard for the Southern title (Jeff is also scheduled in a tag match with Gilbert vs the Hangmen so quite a few guys are doing double duty). The final match of the night will be the aforementioned Lawler vs Embry bout.

Bill Dundee is still feuding with his son Jamie, aka J C Ice Baby. Jamie is managng Steve Austin who beat Dundee with a loaded glove a few weeks ago. This lead to a coal miner's glove match between the two. JC is also feuding with Downtown/Uptown/All Around the Town Bruno in a series of Karate gloves matches. The latest one will have Austin in Jamie's corner and Bill Dundee in Bruno's corner. Dundee wrestled junior heavyweight champ El Grand Pistolero (who still makes Dundee look like the Mayor of Munchkinland) and did a blade job after a run in by Austin and Jamie.

On the 4/1 card, Dundee and Austin are in the opening bout in a first blood match.

Bill Burnett reports the move of the year took place early this year when Embry and Pritchard combined to do a pile driver on a jobber. Watch the Steiners pick this one up because this piledriver came off the middle and top ropes. The jobber was scraped up off the mat and carted off on a stretcher (not sure if he was hurt or not).

The Jerry Lawler show, a fixture on Sunday morning TV in Memphis reached a milestone this past week when they broadcast their 400th show.

Interesting clip that Bill sent along too. Lawler is one of the most vocal when it comes to denouncing the sheets and their effect on the business. He denies being a partner in the promotion. Yet in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, the daily newspaper there, he is always referred to as a partner whenever a quote is attributed to him. He doesn't object to that, I guess. Then again, we've come to expect the double standard from the wrestling business.

BIO

SERGEANT SLAUGHTER

REAL NAME: Robert Remus

YEAR DEBUTED: 1972

TRAINED BY: Verne Gagne

CURRENT STATUS: Lead Heel-WWF

Sergeant Slaughter began his career in 1972 as a jobber in the AWA under his real name. He soon became Bob Slaughter but never got a push until about 1977 when he donned a hood. He became Super Destroyer Mark II and was managed by Lord Alfred Hayes in the AWA.

In late 1979-early 1980, he left the AWA for the WWF. It was there that Vince McMahon Sr. developed the Sgt. Slaughter character. The story line was that he was a boot camp drill sergeant that was thrown out of the service for being too mean. He was pushed into main events with the Grand Wizard as his manager. He challenged Bob Backlund for the WWF title. Fans were encouraged to call him Gomer and his favorite phrase was to call the fans "maggots."

He left the WWF after a feud with Pat Patterson which culminated in one of the bloodiest "Alley Fights" in history. In that match, Grand Wizard threw in the towel. He then left the WWF.

He ended up in the Mid Atlantic area (1981-82) where he formed a tag team with Private Nelson (who later became Boris Zhukov). He later teamed with Don Kernodle and had a tremendous feud with the late Jay Youngblood and Ricky Steamboat.

He returned to the WWF, now under the direction of Vince McMahon Jr. where he resumed his role as a heel. That didn't last long as he and the Iron Sheik (who trained together in Gagne's camp) met while one was exiting the ring and the other entering and they had one of the hottest feuds of the year.

He was fired from the WWF in late 1984 for attempting to unionize wrestlers there. He went to the AWA as a babyface and won the Americas title, but his popularity waned seriously. He became spokesman for Hasbro and GI Joe and was featured in a cartoon series.

He worked the independent circuit for the next six years, as a babyface patriot. He returned to the WWF in 1990 with the condition that he return as a heel. He did, aligning himself with Sheik Adnan al-Kassidy as an Iraqi sympathizer. He won the WWF championship from Ultimate Warrior in January 1991 before losing the belt to Hulk Hogan last week at Wrestlemania. He continues in his heel role.

World Wrestling Federation

Gee, what can we tell you that you don't already know? Unless you've been living in a cave, you know that Hulk Hogan regained his WWF title at Wrestlemania last Sunday. You've probably heard about the tag belts changing hands and about Randy Savage's babyface turn...so I guess we can sum up this report in just this paragraph.

Nah.

Let's take a look at what the world forgot to watch this past Sunday with some results, grades and insights...

ROCKERS VS BARBARIAN & HAKU

The Rockers were "on" and made the opening event a good one for the most part. They did several spots, usually with the Rockers getting the spot beat out of them, but there was little in between the spots. Remarkable was the spot where Barbie delivered a double clothesline and Marty & Shawn did spinning 360's. Another spot had Marty on Haku's shoulders while Barbie ran in and helped do a version of a hot shot. Jim Duggan, color commentator extraordinaire, came up with a classic line: "I think he's hurt." Fortunately, they found other work for Jim after the first match. The Rockers won the match after beating on Haku for a bit with a dropkick off the top ropes and a flying cross body block for the pin. **TIME: 10:23 GRADE: C+ ANALYSIS:** Barbie and Haku aren't going anywhere so the result is no surprise. Rockers are pushed now as being a team that can handle wrestlers much bigger than them.

KERRY VON ERICH VS DINO BRAVO

In this match, I became convinced that Nightstalker is a better wrestler than Bravo. At least Stalker is faster. Kerry won it with a claw followed by a discus punch. **TIME: 3:10 GRADE: F ANALYSIS:** TGFSM (Thank goodness for short matches).

DAVEY ROID SMITH VS WARLORD

Warlord was blown up by :45. His whole gimmick is a "Weeble" - he wobbles but he won't fall down. They did a nice sequence towards the end with exchanged pinning combinations, and that saved the match from a failing grade. Davey Roid won it with an Oklahoma Stampede (Statford-on-Avon Stampede?). **TIME: 8:16 GRADE: C- ANALYSIS:** Warlord is relegated to glorified jobber status while Davey Boy is set for a push.

HART FOUNDATION VS NASTY BOYS

This wasn't a bad match, but it proved that the Nasty Boys just aren't ready yet for a major push. That won't stop Vince, however. The Harts dominated through the first half while the Nasties took over during the second half. The NB's domination consisted of a lot of rest holds. The end saw a hot tag by the Harts, followed by a Hart Attack. The ref was busy and Jimmy Hart threw in the bullhorn and Jim Neidhart got it in the skull. Nasty Boys win it and the tag titles as a result. **TIME: 12:07 GRADE: C ANALYSIS:** It's over for the Hart Foundation. Bret should begin as a

singles soon and who knows what will happen to Neidhart. As for the Nasty Boys, I don't look for their championship reign to be a long one.

JAKE ROBERTS VS RICK MARTEL

A blindfold match that was a waste of time. Much too long and far too predictable. Jake won after a DDT. **TIME: 8:33 GRADE: Z ANALYSIS:** Both men should go on to new feuds as there's no where else to go with this one.

KANE THE UNDERTAKER VS JIMMY SNUKA

Squash match with Kane winning. Pringle's facial expressions at ringside aren't funny. They're stupid. **TIME: 4:18 GRADE: F ANALYSIS:** Get ready for a series between Kane and Ultimate Warrior.

ULTIMATE WARRIOR VS RANDY SAVAGE

This was the best match on the card, but saved only because of the last 8:00 and the angle afterwards. After a ref bump, Sherri came in with her shoe (no doubt bought from the same place JJ Dillion buys his shoes) and clobbered Randy with it. He recovered from that. Randy then came off the top ropes 3 or 4 times on Warrior and Warrior went into his version of hulking out. He went into his standard routine, pressing and slamming Savage, then splashing him. To everyone's surprise, Randy kicked out. Warrior looked like he wanted to take his ball and go home, but stuck around long enough to absolutely destroy Savage. He pinned Randy by *standing with one foot on his chest* after three spears.

After the match, Sherri came in the ring and started screaming at Randy. He laid there while she started kicking him. The Lovely Elizabeth, who, as Gorilla Monsoon would later tell us, loved Randy all along, ran in and tossed Sherri from the ring. Randy got up and thought it was Liz who had been thumping him. Stifling a laugh, Liz turned on the tear machine until Randy took her in his arms. The fans went bonkers, Randy held the ropes for her amidst wild cheering (to turn him into the biggest heel Titan has *ever* seen, all he would have had to have done is clothesline her at this point). Two or three people had tears running down their faces live and Bobby Heenan came up with the funniest line of the night. While the camera is showing one of the blubbering ringsiders, Heenan says, "Maybe her shoes are too tight." Guess you had to be there.

TIME (of match only): 20:45 GRADE: C+ ANALYSIS: Now Warrior can go feud with Kane and Randy, well, he's supposed to retire. I'd be willing to bet that after there's a little Savage on the way, Liz will either get up a petition to reinstate him or she'll bring him back under a hood. If for some reason she doesn't conceive soon, then look for some heel to whop her one and Randy to come to her aid. With Prime Time now being TNT in disguise (and not a very good disguise at that), I wouldn't find it shocking to see these two lovebirds get "married" on the air.

By the way, the boys in the dressing rooms gave Randy and Liz a standing ovation for their performance when they returned backstage.

Next came the asinine debate on whether instant replay should be

used. Everything was taped in advance and someone spliced the thing together so that it almost made sense. George Steinbrenner looked and acted like a kid in a school play who was reading his lines in his best actor's voice. Paul McGuire was a buffoon. Vince-baby, the moderator, should have stayed at home. It turned into a TNT skit with the Bushwhackers being the instant replay judges, trying to decide if McGuire called Steinbrenner a butt head or not. Not funny and it had nothing of value.

KITAO & TENYRU VS DEMOLITION

I looked forward to this match until Kitao was in the ring for less than a minute. Remember Steve Cox in the UWF and how he used to sell punches and kicks by just shaking his head? That's how Kitao sold. It turned into a squash with the Japanese team winning with a powerbomb. **TIME: 4:41**
GRADE: Z ANALYSIS: Had to let the Japanese win so relationships weren't strained while on tour. Don't look for much more out of Demolition.

BOSSMAN VS HENNIG

It wasn't a bad effort by WWF standards, but it was far below the pace these two are capable of setting. Midway through, Andre the Giant (who can't wear his lifts anymore because of his back) looked anything but gigantic, came to the ring and terrorized Heenan. The Heenan family did a run in to cause a DQ on Hennig. **TIME: 10:44 GRADE: C**
ANALYSIS: Both men remain strong and continue to feud. I'm afraid Andre may be making a few more appearances, hopefully none in an active role (wouldn't you like to see El Gigante just *stand* next to Andre?)

EARTHQUAKE VS GREG VALENTINE

Another squash. Earthquake with a splash. **TIME: 3:16 GRADE: ZZ**
ANALYSIS: who cares?

ROAD WARRIORS VS POWER & GLORY

ANOTHER squash. Warriors with a top rope clothesline. **TIME: 0:59**
GRADE: F ANALYSIS: Bye bye Herc and Roma.

TED DIBIASE VS VIRGIL

I was anxious to see just how much Virgil had improved since his days as Soul Train Jones in Memphis. He had shown signs of vast improvement previously, but Ted couldn't carry him here. Virgil thought it was was a boxing match and that's about the hardest thing a veteran can make a good match from. Ted was counted out of the ring after he went after Piper and they went at it a while. Piper was on a crutch. Sherri did a run in and they doubled on Piper until Virgil made the save. **TIME: 7:37 GRADE: D+**
ANALYSIS: We should be seeing a little of Ted vs Roddy until the summer. I think we'll see a mixed team at Summerscam with Ted and Sherri vs Randy and Liz.

MOUNTIE JACQUES ROUGEAU VS TITO SANTANA

The card was running late by this time so these guys (along with the Roadies and Earthquake) were told to get in there and get it over with. No Problem. Jacques used the cattle prod on Tito to get the pin. **TIME: 1:20**
GRADE: Z ANALYSIS: Tito gets a nice bonus for being such a team

player; Mountie gets to be pushed a little further.

HULK HOGAN VS SERGEANT SLAUGHTER

Did you notice they introduced Slaughter first? That tell you something? The match was done in ultra slow motion. Hogan bladed at the 17:00 mark and so obviously that my wife caught it. He bled pretty good as a result, but three minutes later, it had stopped. The ending was well done with Slaughter having Hogan out and going for a pin. First, however, he went and got the Iraqi flag and draped it over Hogan, then tried to pin him. That gave Hogan all he needed for the Hunking out routine and at 20:20, after the customary legdrop, the referee's hand hit the mat for the third time with Hogan winning back the belt. **TIME: 20:20 GRADE: D+ ANALYSIS:** It should become crystal clear in a moment...

NOTES ON THE CARD: How many times did the ape call Los Angeles "the City of Angels?" Did he ever call it "Los Angeles?" On hand in the audience was Chuck Norris (who could have kicked the fanny of anyone who wrestled on the card), Donald Trump, Henry "the Fonz" Winkler plus the kid from "HOME ALONE." Rick Steamboat was there but never on camera. Tugboat was not there and speculation is that he's history. Iron Sheik was there and dressed and ready to do a run in if needed, but they nixed that at the last minute since no one has seen him on TV yet. The ape kept telling us it was the biggest audience in PPV history even though there's no way he could have known that at the time. I don't believe it will eclipse last year or some of the boxing that's been on, but I'm sure it did better than the Monster Truck PPV a few months back.

BUYRATE: Buyrates comparatively are misleading. The buyrate is the percentage of homes that bought the show out of the total number of homes equipped to receive the show. Total number of homes is called the "universe." Since the universe changes every PPV (companies that don't offer WCW events but do offer Titan are counted in the WWF universe, but not the WCW), comparing buyrates can be deceptive. From our preliminary figures, this Wrestlemania did a 4.7% - 4.9%. They had hoped (and bragged about doing) for a 7% which would have been silly. No doubt we'll get lots of phone calls telling us that they did an 8%.

After the PPV was done, they shot an angle in the dressing room for airing in the next several weeks. Hogan is doing his interview and Sgt. Slaughter breaks in and tosses a fireball at him. Hogan catches it in the face and rolls around while Mean Gene gives us play by play. This means, of course, that despite Gorilla Monsoon's proclamation at the end of the Pay Per View broadcast, telling President Bush and all the service men and women still stationed overseas, that the war was now "officially" over, it is not. We'll be seeing this run around the country till late summer.

Since we last met on these pages, they've done two TV shoots, the first of which was done down in Florida and Alabama. On those tapes, nothing much happened (they've learned their lesson about taping in advance and giving away Wrestlemania finishes). The Iron Sheik debuted, but he's no longer the

Iron Sheik. He's no longer former WWF champion. He's no longer the man that Hogan beat for the first reign. He's now Colonel Mustafa (or something like that) from Iraq. He's joined Sheik Adnon al-Kaissey's stable and will probably be teaming with Slaughter soon. And I'll bet you can see this angle coming a mile away, right? Slaughter and Sheik have the classic disagreement and breakup, probably about the time Summerslam rolls around. Then again, Vince may hold that one out in front of us like a carrot on a stick like he did with the DiBiase-Virgil breakup.

The second set of tapings were done in Las Vegas and Reno. Two main angles were shot and we don't have a lot of details on them since the news came from one of the boys.

We do know they furthered the angle with Kane the Undertaker and Ultimate Warrior. They attack Warrior and end up loading in into a coffin, complete with medics doing CPR and the whole schtick. I can hear the groans from here and anticipate the letters on this one.

The other angle sets up the feud between Jake Roberts and Earthquake. Looking forward to that one, I'll bet. Earthquake supposedly does his sit down job on Jake and Jake is injured. Poor guy; can't see and now he gets squashed like a bug.

At Wrestlemania, Titan handed out flyers inviting fans to come and be a part of the USA Prime Time taping they were doing on Venice Beach the next morning. The flyer said special guests would be Hulk Hogan, the Nasty Boys and Mike Christian from the World Bodybuilding Federation (Vince's adventure into that market).

It was speculated over the phone this past week by several callers that Sid Vicious might show up at these tapings (See story in WCW report). It didn't happen. Probably won't for a while.

If you don't usually see *Sports Illustrated* you might want to check your local library for last week's issue. It features a seven page story on Vincent K. McMahon where he talks about the money the WWF generates. It's not too bad, it's good publicity, but the figures quoted do seem a bit exaggerated. Just for the record, there is a picture of Vince sitting underneath a portrait of himself which smacks of the ultimate arrogance. That's the one picture that Vince had hoped they didn't use in the spread. The portrait was painted by a fan and given to McMahon, so don't go thinking he commissioned it himself.

Titan is going to try and run a "cheap" Pay Per View event called the Titan Hot Ticket. They promise it will be excerpts, some never before seen, of the first seven Wrestlemanias. Kind of funny that in order to do a "best of" show on Wrestlemania, they had to wait seven years to compile enough to fill a couple of hours. Look for the price tag on this one to be around \$9.95.

WWF back in Moline on 4/15 and we'll have a live report for you. Next night TV taping in Cedar Rapids; depending on how far along we are with the bulletin, we might cover that as well next time.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

2/23 ROCHESTER, NY (WWF) – BY SEAN HENDRICK...
 Bossman beat Bravo (C+)...Undertaker pinned Tugboat (D+)...Dugan pinned Kaissey (F-)...Warriors beat Demolition (B+)...Kerry Von Erich over Ted DiBiase (B+)...Mountie defeated Jim Powers (D-)...Nasty Boys beat Rockers (A-)...Hogan defeated EQ (B-)...NOTES: Attendance: 12,500...Hogan was posing and a fan jumped in the ring...he waved off security, talked to the guy, high fived him, and let security take him...told security to go easy on him.Rockers were excellent...Nasty Boys used a shoe for the pin.

3/15 MOUNT DORA, FL (PWF) – courtesy of SHANNON ROSE...
 Mighty Thor beat CoconuT Kid...Powerhouse Parker over Master Blaster...Jim Backlund pinned Lou Perez ...Terminator and Powerhouse Parker over HeartBreakers (Jimmy Rogers & Bull Lloyd) by DQ...Steve Keien pinned Dick Slater...NOTES: ATTENDANCE 200..

3/16 PITTSBURGH (WWF) - courtesy of STEVE DECKER...
 Orient Express over Sheepwhackers (F)....Duggan beat Haku (ZZ)...Santana pinned Steve Lombardi (C-)...Sgt Slaughter beat Ultimate Warrior (C-) ...Jacques Rougeau defeated Superfly Snuka (D+)...Road Warriors pinned Nasty Boys (B+)...Bossman/Jake beat Hennig/Martel (B+)...NOTES: Attendance: 8000...Crowd was really up for Slaughter vs Warrior but dead for everything else...Nasty Boys worked hard, but Warriors seemed lazy...last match went about 20 minutes and Curt took some great bumps.

3/16 SANFORD, FL (PWF) – courtesy of SHANNON ROSE
 ...Scotty E drew Hillbilly Cousin Junior...Terminator pinned Master Blaster...Jim Backlund beat Lou Perez...Bugsy McGraw and Mighty Thor over Heartbreakers by DQ...Steve Kiern pinned Dick Slater...NOTES: ATTENDNACE 100

3/21 RUSKIN (SWA) - courtesy of SHANNON ROSE...
 McKenzie defeated Tommy Starr by DQ...Sgt Ray the Bull pinned Nuclear Assassin #1....Horace Boulder drew greenpaeace...Dynamite Express defeated Hell Rebels (pinned manager mr. Fritzzy)...Chris Proctor defeated Mean Mike Steele by DQ...NOTES: attendance 75.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

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Last issue we printed the instructions for ordering a yearbook. The printer was busy when we took the thing in and as a result, it was four days late going out. Because of that, we have decided to delay publication of the book until after the 15th of April. You still have until then to get your order in. Price is \$12.50 (add \$1.50 for 1st class postage). We are running about three or four days behind on its completion because of severe weather in the area and I felt better having the computer unplugged during those three days.

Paul Spiegel is putting together a convention for the St. Petersburg area in conjunction with the WCW PPV being held there May 19. He's got a truckload of ringside seats, plus is promoting an independent card the night before. He hopes to have some of the WCW on hand for autographs, etc. For more info, write to Paul at Box 22164, Tampa FL 33622, or call him at (813) 876-3371.

I've had the chance to see both the published version of the Riki Lawless story in Hustler and the unedited copy written by Ferk. The finished product was worked over quite well by Samurai Editor before it saw print. The unedited version was much better. Ferk is in the process of looking for a publisher for an entire book on the murder of Lawless.

Got a letter this past week from a reader who missed the updates on the Knoxville Blue Bullets basketball team this year. He wondered if perhaps they had an off year because I hadn't mentioned them. Yes, they did have an off year. They had only a 23-4 record (not bad for a team whose tallest player was 6-1). That brings the four year total to 99-12, and 121-19 over the last five. We're still pretty proud of the high school here in Knoxville.

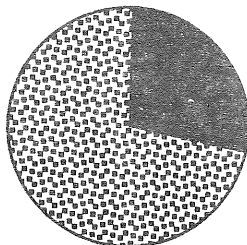
Just to help us along on our goals and to let you all know hoe much you're doing to help, there will be a graph printed each issue showing how far along on our goal we are. Easy to read: the dark part shows what we've got and the lighter side shows how much we have to have to hit our goal. Thanks in advance for your help!

A big thanks to Ed Hammond and Paul Zakovic of WIRL radio for having me as a guest on their sports show. It was a lot of fun and we hope to do it again sometime.

If you need us for anything, the phone is (309) 289-2662. No late night calls anymore, please. Try to call before 10:30 pm.

See you in a couple of weeks!

goal



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